



**TESTIMONY OF**  
***Elliot Joseph***  
***President & CEO, Hartford HealthCare***  
***for Hartford Hospital; The Hospital of Central Connecticut; MidState Medical***  
***Center; Windham Hospital***

**SUBMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**February 17, 2012**

**HB 5014, AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013**

Hartford HealthCare and its member hospitals; Hartford Hospital, MidState Medical Center, Hospital of Central Connecticut and Windham Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning HB 5014, an act making adjustments to state expenditures and revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Hartford HealthCare with its member hospitals and other care providers employs over 15,000 people in 80 communities throughout the state. We aspire to be the next generation integrated health system, one marked by strong patient focus, heightened efficiency, consistent quality performance and open, collaborative sharing of best practice. Our members include hospitals, behavioral health centers, a statewide laboratory, large primary care physician practices, regional home care delivery systems, senior health services, and physical therapy and rehabilitation networks.

*Hartford Hospital* is one of the largest teaching hospitals and tertiary care centers in New England. It employs 7,000 people, making it the city of Hartford's largest employer. Hartford Hospital has 867 total beds. It is the second busiest surgical practice, after Mass General. It owns and operates LifeStar and with nearly 100,000 Emergency Department visits, it is the only Level 1 trauma center in the Hartford region. Hartford Hospital provides \$132 million in community benefit and \$28 million in charity care.

*MidState Medical Center* consistently ranks among the top hospitals in Connecticut in patient satisfaction. Comprehensive services include General Surgery, Cancer Center, Cardiac Care, Emergency Medicine, Advanced Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine and more. It has a total of 144 beds, over 50,000 emergency department visits and provides \$21 million in community benefit and \$13 million in charity care.

*The Hospital of Central Connecticut* is a 414 bed community teaching hospital that provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services in general medicine and surgery, as well as a wide variety of specialties including cancer services, cardiology, clinical research, Joslin Diabetes Center affiliate, psychiatry and behavioral health, Sleep Disorders Center, among others. HOCC provided over \$8 million in charity care and is among the largest provider of Medicaid services in the state.

*Windham Hospital* treated more than 32,000 patients through its emergency department within 30 minutes of arrival. Its services include, among others, surgery, sports medicine, oncology, women's health, diagnostic/interventional radiology and sleep medicine. Windham has a total of 130 beds and provided nearly \$9 million in community benefit and over \$1 million in charity care.

Each of our member hospitals, Hartford, MidState, HOCC and Windham, knows all too well how difficult it is to operate in this economic environment and make choices among competing priorities. Hartford HealthCare sincerely thanks Governor Malloy for submitting a budget that maintains hospitals' Medicaid rates. We do, however, have concerns over several provisions in the proposed budget.

Hartford HealthCare member hospitals must oppose several provisions in HB 5014 that would negatively impact our hospitals and the communities we serve. Specifically, we oppose those provisions that will reduce Medicaid Low-Income Adult enrollment by seeking a waiver to establish a \$25,000 asset limit (excluding an automobile or home); count family income when determining eligibility for individuals under the age of 26 and either living with their parents or claimed as a dependent for tax purposes; and impose limits on certain medical services; as on of the few hospitals that provide dental services for the under and uninsured Hartford Hospital opposes the proposed reduction in reimbursement rates for certain dental benefits for individuals in the Medicaid program; and finally, once again we must oppose the proposal to eliminate \$600,00 for Hartford Hospital air ambulance, LifeStar. For years we have provided testimony on the benefits of this program and costs associated with delivery of this vital and award winning service that has saved countless lives. We would be happy to provide whatever information is needed regarding LifeStar.

Hartford HealthCare concurs with you, Senator Harp and Representative Walker, as well as the chairs of the Human Services and Public Health Committees, when, in your January 11, 2012 letter to Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Roderick L. Bremby, you cautioned that the Medicaid LIA population is one of our most vulnerable, and any modifications of the program would likely cause significant disruption and a loss of benefits.

Federal healthcare reform has just provided coverage for the most vulnerable populations making them eligible for Medicaid. These proposed changes will impede access for those individuals.

Hartford HealthCare member hospitals serve patients in the most underserved areas of our state: Hartford, New Britain, Meriden and Willimantic. These reductions will have a negative impact on our hospitals, and make it more difficult for people to find care in the appropriate setting and enroll and remain in Medicaid. In these difficult economic times, we must ensure that the state is unwavering in its commitment not to dismantle programs and critical care services designed to help the citizens of our state when they are most in need and in particular the most vulnerable of our community. We must ensure that institutions such as Hartford HealthCare community hospitals have adequate resources to continue to provide the best care to those with greatest need and less access to quality healthcare.

Thank you.